THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR) : (a) and (b) The Hon'ble Member is presumably referring to the following incidents :—

(i) One Shri Sawinder Singh @ Surender Singh was being interrogated at the office of the Directorate of Enforcement at Lok Nayak Bhawan when he jumped from the 6th floor office of the Directorate in the early hours of 29-2-1992. He was taken to Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital, New Delhi. The doctors on duty declared Shri Sawinder Singh "brought dead".

On directions of the Supreme Court, the District and Sessions Judge, Delhi has appointed a Senior Additional District and Sessions Judge, Delhi to hold an enquiry into the circumstances of Shri Sawinder Singh's death.

(ii) On 23-4-1992, one person named Shri Sudhir Kumar Chaudhary jumped out of the window of a room of the Central Revenues Building while his statement was being recorded by the officers of Delhi Customs in connection with a seizure of 252 VCPs and 125 packages of ball bearings of foreign origin collectively valued at 53.80 lakhs. Shri Chaudhary was rushed to LNJP Hospital and is undergoing treatment in this hospital. A departmental enquiry has been ordered. The Delhi Police authorities were also immediately informed about the incident and they have made preliminary enquiries.

Customs Duty on Bearings

796. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government consideration to cut down Customs Duty on all kinds of bearings;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what steps Government have taken so far and propose to take to check smuggling of this item ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR) : (a) At present, there is no proposal under Government's consideration to cut down customs duty on bearings.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The machinery to check smuggling of contraband goods including bearings has been strengthened from time to time and preventive activities intensified. Close coordination is maintained with all the enforcement agencies.

Employment on Compassionate Grounds in Punjab National Bank

797. PROF. SAURIN BHATTACHARYA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Punjab National Bank's regional office at Kanpur has finally refused employment to widows on compassionate ground whose husbands died in harness or died while under suspension from the employment recently ;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that the lapses of PNB had delayed the completion of enquiries against those employees who were put under suspension for a long time ; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof and further action proposed to be taken to employ the widows in the bank ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Under Invoicing of Prices on Import of Ball-Bearing

798. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA :
SHRI J.P. JAVALI :
SHRI SOM PAL :
SHRIMATI MIRA DAS :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that ball bearing importers of Bombay were recently caught for under invoicing upto 75 per cent. of the import price ;